

Application Serial No.: 10/783,169  
Pannell et al.  
Response to Office Action mailed March 17, 2006

#### REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the restriction and withdrawal of claims 38-45.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 12-14, and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have amended the affected claims to remove "hand operated" disconnect fitting and replace with the appropriate quick-disconnect fitting. As such, Applicants have removed the substance of the Examiner's rejection as to those claims. The 112 rejection is believed to be overcome.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wing (2,862,765). Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly distinguish over the prior art reference. Claim 1, as amended, recites a chemical distribution system. A first portion of tubing having a pressure rating of at least 60 pounds-per-square-inch (PSI) is affixed along an exterior surface of a dwelling. A second portion of tubing is affixed along structures external to the dwelling, the second portion of the tubing being connected to the first portion of tubing. A plurality of outlets is coupled to the first and second portions of tubing for dispensing a chemical solution having properties of killing living organisms. A quick-disconnect fitting has a first end coupled for receiving the chemical solution. A lever-arm is adapted for rotation. The lever-arm has a first end coupled to the quick-disconnect fitting and a second end coupled to a pivot point in the first or second portions of tubing. The lever-arm rotates 90 degrees at the pivot point for ease of connection.

Application Serial No.: 10/783,169

Pannell et al.

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The Wing reference does not teach or suggest a chemical distribution system for a chemical solution having a lever-arm with a first end coupled to the quick-disconnect fitting and a second end coupled to a pivot point in the first or second portions of tubing, where the lever-arm itself rotates 90 degrees at the pivot point to bring the quick-disconnect fitting to a position where the fitting can better receive the chemical solution. Wing does not teach or suggest a quick-disconnect fitting. Wing teaches a fixed valve 33 having a handle which is coupled to apparatus 30, presumably tubing but not identified in the specification. A pivot point in the tubing is not disclosed.

In contrast, the present invention teaches a quick-disconnect fitting which can be rotated to a vertical position by means of the lever-arm which is coupled between the quick-disconnect fitting and the pivot point. Such a lever-arm allows the quick-disconnect fitting to better receive the chemical solution when in use, and rotate to a hidden, secure position when not in use.

Again, Applicants teach a distribution system which teaches a truck carrying the chemical solution quickly connecting to the distribution system, applying the chemical solution having properties of killing living organisms using the system, and disconnecting from the system. The structural features of the distribution system are such that they must comply with state and federal regulations concerning potentially hazardous chemical solutions which are passed through the system.

A delivery truck having a portable tank holding the chemical accesses the distribution through the connector, which can swivel upwards to receive a hose from the distribution

Application Serial No.: 10/783,169  
Pannell et al.  
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truck. The connector has a hand-operated quick disconnect mechanism to allow the truck to quickly engage the distribution system. Once the chemical has been applied using the system, the truck can quickly disengage from the system. The Wing reference could not possibly anticipate such a system. The Wing reference teaches away from such a system. Valve 33 is intended to be a permanent fixture to the Wing system.

Claim 1 is believed to patentably distinguish over the Wing reference. Claims 2, 4-7 and 9 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim. Applicants have canceled claims 3, 8, 10 and 11.

Applicants have amended claim 12 to help distinguish over the prior art reference. Claim 12, as amended, recites a fixed chemical application system. A tubing is fixed to an exterior surface having a pressure rating of at least 60 pounds-per-square-inch (PSI). A plurality of outlets is inserted into the tubing for dispensing a chemical solution having properties of killing living organisms. A quick-disconnect fitting has a first end coupled for receiving the chemical solution and a second end coupled to a pivot point in the tubing. The first end readily disengages a portable storage tank holding the chemical solution. A junction box is disposed external to the dwelling. The quick-disconnect fitting is mounted within the junction box. A lever arm is coupled between the quick-disconnect fitting and the pivot point in the tubing, wherein the lever arm is laid lengthwise within the junction box when not in use and rotates 90 degrees to a vertical position to provide ease of connection to the portable storage tank.

Claim 12 is believed to patentably distinguish over the Wing reference for reasons previously described. Additionally, it is

Application Serial No.: 10/783,169

Pannell et al.

Response to Office Action mailed March 17, 2006

believed that neither Wing nor the other prior art references of record teach or suggest a junction box for storing a quick-disconnect fitting when not in use, the fitting and lever-arm mounted within the junction box and laid lengthwise within the junction box when not in use and rotating 90 degrees to a vertical position to provide ease of connection.

Claims 13-14 and 16-18 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wing et al. (2,862,765). Claim 6 is believed to be in condition for allowance as it is dependent from an allowable base claim.

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wing et al. (2,862,765) in view of Valiant (4,175,703). Again, claims 2 and 14 are believed to be in condition for allowance as dependent from allowable base claims.

Applicants have added new claims 46-53. New independent claim 47 is better drawn to the elected species of invention, which is a chemical distribution system. A tubing is fixed to an exterior surface having a pressure rating of at least 60 pounds-per-square-inch (PSI). A plurality of outlets is inserted into the tubing for dispensing a chemical solution. A quick-disconnect fitting has a first end coupled for receiving the chemical solution and a second end coupled to the tubing, wherein the first end readily disengages a portable storage tank holding the chemical solution. A junction box is disposed external to the dwelling. The quick-disconnect fitting is mounted within the junction box. Finally, a lever arm is coupled between the quick-disconnect fitting and the tubing. The lever arm is laid

Application Serial No.: 10/783,169  
Pannell et al.  
Response to Office Action mailed March 17, 2006

lengthwise within the junction box when not in use and rotates the quick disconnect fitting to a vertical position to receive the solution from the portable storage tank.


New dependent claims 46 and 48-53 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each depends from an allowable base claim.

Applicants believe that all information and requirements for the application have been provided to the USPTO. If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of the Application, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due with this Response to U.S. PTO Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,  
**QUARLES & BRADY STREICH LANG LLP**

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By:   
John A. Griffiths  
Reg. No. 57,654

Address all correspondence to:  
**John A. Griffiths**  
Quarles & Brady Streich Lang LLP  
One Renaissance Square  
Two North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Telephone: (602) 229-5247  
Facsimile: (602) 229-5690  
Email: jgriffit@quarles.com